

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 26 are pending.

Claims 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, 10, 13, 21-22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,209) and Bansal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,569).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 in view of Reed, Bansal, and Komaki et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0108156).

It is noted with appreciation that claims 4, 5, 12, 15, 17, and 19 are allowed.

It is further noted appreciation that claims 23, 25, and 26 are deemed allowable.

Section 101 Rejection of Claims 13 and 15

Claim 15 has been amended to conform to the Section 101 requirement for proper statutory subject matter.

Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Section 103 Rejections of Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 13, 21, 22, and 24

Without conceding the merits of the Section 103 rejections, the following amendments are made in order to bring prosecution of the instant application to a speedy conclusion.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its allowable dependent claim 25, and as amended is now believed to be allowable. Claim 25 has been canceled. Claims 3, 6, and 24 which depend from claim 1 are believed to be allowable based on the allowability of the base claim 1.

Claims 10 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its allowable dependent claim 23, and as amended is now believed to be allowable. Claim 23 has been canceled. Claim 22 which depends from claim 21 is believed to be allowable based on the allowability of claim 21.

Appl. No. 10/782,629
Amdt. dated June 18, 2008
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2617

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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